

REMARKS

Pursuant to the above-noted Office Action, claims 28 and 68 were objected to due to informalities. Claims 1-6, 10, 15-18, 34, 35, 57-62, and 66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) given Rosenbaum et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,323,461). Claims 7-9 and 63-65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) given Rosenbaum in view of Ludeman (U.S. Patent No. 6,233,335). Claims 14, 19-22, 45-49, and 69 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) given Rosenbaum in view of Manchester et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,574,333). Claims 23-27, 51 and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) given Rosenbaum in view of Manchester and Ludeman. Claims 11-13, 28-33, 36-44, 50, 53-56, 67 and 68 were objected to as depending upon rejected base claims but were otherwise found to be allowable. The applicant hereby respectfully traverses these objections and rejections and requests reconsideration.

Claim 28 was objected to as lacking a period. Claim 68 was objected to as having two periods. Both instances are attended to pursuant to this amendment. The applicant respectfully submits that claims 28 and 68 are in suitable condition to support allowance.

Pursuant to this response, the applicant has essentially incorporated the indicated allowed subject matter into the base claim from which such subject matter ultimately depended. It may be noted, in many instances, this does not include the limitations of all intervening claims. Instead, such intervening claims are, for the most part, not required to provide necessary antecedent basis or to otherwise accord with the Examiner's statement of reasons for indicating allowable subject matter. Therefore, the applicant respectfully submits that although intervening recitations are not presented, that these claims are nevertheless allowable in their present form.

More particularly, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 11 and claim 11 has been cancelled. Independent claim 15 has also been amended to include relevant portions of dependent claim 31. Claim 35 has been amended to include the recitations of claim 36 and claim 36 has been cancelled. Dependent claim 37 has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of base claim 35. Independent claim 45 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 50 and dependent claim 50 has been cancelled. Independent claim 57 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 67 and claim 67 has been cancelled. Other amendments have been made to

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various of the dependent claims to insure appropriate dependency references and/or appropriate antecedent basis references.

There being no other objections to or rejections of the claims, the applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-10, 12-35, 37-49, 51-66, 68 and 69 may be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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